

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: SHARP "ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT MEETING WITH SECRETARY

1. CANADIAN PRESS AND TELEVISION REPORTED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MITCHELL SHARP WAS "ENTHUSIASTIC" ABOUT HIS 40-MINUTE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AT USUN SEPTEMBER 25. SHARP WAS QUOTED AS STATING "IT IS CLEAR DR. KISSINGER WANTS TO MAINTAIN WARM AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH US."

2. MEDIA COVERAGE HERE OF THE MEETING WAS MODEST BUT FAVORABLE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE INDEPENDENT CTV NETWORK WHICH CHOSE TO FOCUS ON THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE TIMING OF THE MEETING RATHER THAN ON ITS SUBSTANCE. ALL OTHER PRESS AND TELEVISION COVERAGE FEATURED VARIOUS STATEMENTS OF MR. SHARP EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WITH THE NEW US SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. THE GLOBE AND MAIL'S HUGH WINSOR WROTE THAT IF SHARP'S "REACTION TO HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IS A BAROMETER, CANADA'S CONCERNS HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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GAINED A SYMPATHETIC EAR IN WASHINGTON." WINSOR REPORTED

THAT SHARP WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO STRESS THAT HIS RECEPTION WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY AND THAT MR. KISSINGER HAD APPEARED WELL BRIEFED ON CANADIAN APPREHENSIONS. CARL MOLLINS REPORTED IN THE TORONTO STAR THAT CANADIAN DIPLOMATS AT THE UN ARE CONFIDENT THAT HENRY KISSINGER WILL INTRODUCE AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

4. DR. KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL THAT THE TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE DEFER DISCUSSION OF COMPLEX BILATERAL TOPICS FOR A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WHEN THEY WOULD HAVE MORE TIME STRUCK THE "RIGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL NOTE," ACCORDING TO WINSOR WHO REPORTED THAT "ALL OF THE CANADIANS PRESENT, INCLUDING MR. SHARP, CAME AWAY FROM THE MEETING IMPRESSED, IF NOT TO SAY AWED FROM THE ENCOUNTER." ON THIS POINT, THE MONTREAL GAZETTE QUOTED SHARP AS STATING THAT HE "WAS QUITE ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT HE SAID, 'I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU THE CONVENTIONAL REPLY' AND THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH ME IN WASHINGTON."

5. THE CANADIAN PRESS WIRE SERVICE STORY OF THE MEETING, CARRIED IN MANY NEWSPAPERS AND THE BASIS FOR MOST RADIO AND TELEVISION ACCOUNTS, QUOTED MR. SHARP AS STATING THAT THERE WERE NO DISAGREEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS--"WE SAW PRETTY WELL EYE TO EYE." IT REPORTED THAT SHARP, WHO HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY INDICATIONS THAT CANADA WAS BEING IGNORED IN US EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NEW WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMON MARKET, SAID HE CAME AWAY FROM THE KISSINGER MEETING WITH ASSURANCE THAT THIS IS NOT THE AMERICAN INTENTION. A CBC TELEVISION CLIP OF THE MEETING SHOWED SHARP STATING THAT HE AND DR. KISSINGER WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE SAID, "WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH BILATERAL ISSUES, BUT WE'LL BE WORKING ON THEM IN THE MONTHS AHEAD."

6. FAVORABLE COMMENT WAS ALSO MADE ON HOW WELL INFORMED THE SECRETARY WAS ON CANADA. CBOT REPORTED THAT WHEN MR. SHARP RAISED ENERGY AND THE WEST COAST TANKER MATTER, DR. KISSINGER IMMEDIATELY SAID, "OH, YOU MEAN UNCLASSIFIED

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CHERRY POINT" (LOCATION OF THE REFINERIES NEAR SEATTLE WHERE IT IS PROPOSED THAT SUPERTANKERS WILL BRING ALASKAN CRUDE).

7. NONETHELESS, AN UNNAMED EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL IN OTTAWA WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS THIS MORNING AS STATING THAT CANADA IS CONCERNED ABOUT BEING IGNORED BY EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES IN THEIR CONTINUING

NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW WORKING RELATIONS AND THIS CONCERN
WILL BE STRESSED BY SHARP IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH
WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL WHEN HE VISITS
OTTAWA LATER THIS WEEK.
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